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2004

NO. 3

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

H-7620 KINDERGARTEN INVESTMENT FUND (Montanaro & Others) This act would increase the amounts that the General Assembly would appropriate and distribute to each district for the Kindergarten Investment Fund. Finance

H-7662 DRIVER EDUCATION (Anguilla & Lewiss) This act would place driver education course requirements under the Board of Governors for Higher Education instead of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. H.E.W.

H-7681 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Reilly & Others) This act would mandate that the state allocate no more than \$40,000 per student in the special education fund appropriated to communities. Finance

H-7714 MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS (Anderson & Others) This act would require the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt a statewide curriculum in mathematics and English language arts to be offered on a voluntary basis to school districts. H.E.W.

H-7719 SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS (McNamara & Others) This act would expand municipal school health programs by requiring such programs to include policies dealing with physical education, diet and nutrition. These policies would include, but not be limited to, the prohibition of carbonated soda and high-fat snack vending machines. H.E.W.

H-7722 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS (Smith) This act would establish alternative education programs for students removed from the classroom. H.E.W.

H-7723 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (Smith) This act would require each school district to adopt a plan to create an alternative education program to educate students who are removed from the classroom because of a suspension of more than 10 days, or who are chronically truant. H.E.W.

H-7752 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INVESTMENT FUND (Smith) This act would provide funds for alternative education programs for public school students chronically subject to suspension. Finance

H-7753 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM (Smith) This act would establish an Alternative School Pilot Program to be adopted by the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education and the local school committees for the purpose of educating children who have been expelled from school or have otherwise been determined to be unsuitable for attendance at a regular school. Finance

H-7754 SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (Smith) This act would require school districts to employ one full-time speech language pathologist for every 40 students receiving speech language services. Finance

H-7822 EDUCATIONAL EXPENSE EXEMPTION (Crowley & Others) This act would provide for a tax credit which equals 20% of the first \$150 spent on qualifying educational expenses for any student in a qualified institution including home schooling. It would also provide that certain low-income families would have the tax credit regardless of tax liability. Finance

H-7831 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS (Kennedy & McHugh) This act would require approval of the governing body of each city/town participating in a regional school district of a contribution to the school district budget which would cause the tax levy of that city/town to exceed the tax levy 5.5% cap. Finance

H-7839 EDUCATIONAL EXPENSE EXEMPTION (Reilly) This act would provide for a tax credit which equals 20% of the first \$150 spent on qualifying educational expenses for any student in a qualified institution including home schooling. It would also provide that certain low income families would have the tax credit regardless of tax liability. Finance

H-7886 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (Winfield) This act would require the state to provide funding for the special education needs of a child who moves into a city/town after the school committee adopts its budget for the school year. Any additional funding would apply to that school year only. Finance

H-7899 CERTIFICATION OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS (DeSimone & Petrarca) This act would require that elementary and secondary school principals seeking certification on or after July 1, 2005, take, and pass, a written test prior to certification. H.E.W.

H-7905 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES: RESIDENCY (Gorham) This act would permit all public school department employees to reside outside of the city/town of employment. H.E.W.

H-7949 LITERACY INVESTMENT FUND (Carter & Others) This act would provide additional funding to school districts where children in grades K-3 are performing more than 2 years below grade level in reading. Finance

H-7960 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Crowley) This act would eliminate the restriction that no more than 2 charters be granted in a single school district, and no more than 4 charters be granted in a district with more than 20,000 students. Finance

H-7966 SCHOOL COMMITTEES (Crowley) This act would allow Rhode Island Association of School Committees to enter into agreement with any school committee or group of school committees to purchase goods and services on a cooperative basis. Corporations

H-7969 SCHOOL BUS DISTRICTS (Crowley & Others) This act would change the school bus districts within the state pertaining to which particular towns and cities fall within the specified regions. Corporations

H-7970 SCHOOL BUS DISTRICTS (Crowley & Others) This act would rearrange the regions of the school bus districts whereby pupils would be provided bus transportation to the school or facility they attend. Corporations

H-7986 STUDENT PERFORMANCE (Crowley & Others) This act would amend the requirements of the Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative. Specifically, the grades which the strategic plan to improve reading instruction must cover would be extended to include students in grade 4 and grade 5. H.E.W.

H-7988 PUBLISHED TEXTBOOK LIST (Crowley) This act would require the commissioner of public schools to publish an annual list of textbooks that may be used in the fields of mathematics, science, modern foreign languages, English/language arts and history/social studies to all students in grades K-12, and would allow a school committee to substitute those textbooks with earlier editions, provided the earlier editions were no more than 3 years older than the edition published on the annual list. H.E.W.

H-7989 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Crowley & Others) This act would provide that Rhode Island College in cooperation with the Rhode Island Association of

School Committees would develop a professional development educational program for Rhode Island school committees. H.E.W.

H-7990 CIVIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (Story) This act would add 7 new members to the Civic Education Commission. H.E.W.

H-8010 PRIVATE SCHOOLS (McNamara) This act would eliminate academies and institutions of secondary education from the accreditation requirement by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and would provide approval only by the Board of Governors for Higher Education. H.E.W.

H-8043 STOPPING FOR SCHOOL BUS (Lowe & Aubin) This act would provide that the owner of a motor vehicle would not be held liable for a violation of not stopping for a school bus solely for being the registered owner of the vehicle. Judiciary

S-2142 COOPERATIVE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS (Tassoni) This act would expand the law to include school committees, along with cities and towns, as authorized to establish a corporation in order to obtain insurance. This act would also provide that the corporation would be deemed a quasi-public municipal corporation, subject to open meetings law, public records law, and whose directors have a fiduciary duty to its members. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2152 KINDERGARTEN (Lanzi & Others) This act would establish a kindergarten plus incentive fund. Finance

S-2162 DRIVER EDUCATION (Issa & Others) This act would place driver education course requirements under the Board of Governors for Higher Education instead of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. Education

S-2316 HEALTH EDUCATION (Pichardo & Others) This act would clarify the areas of instruction in health and physical education to children in grades 1 through 12 who attend public schools. Health & Human Services

S-2372 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Sheehan) This act would set the per pupil contribution to charter school operation by local school districts at the statewide average per pupil expenditure. Finance

S-2380 AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS (Perry & Others) This act would direct the Department of Health to establish rules and regulations regarding air quality in elementary and secondary schools. Health & Human Services

S-2395 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (Roberts & Others) This act would require that the Director of the Department of Transportation spend \$2,000,000 of federal

highway construction funds on improving pedestrian routes and roads to our schools.
Finance

S-2423 SCHOOL COMMITTEES (Gallo) This act would allow Rhode Island association of school committees to enter into agreement with any school committee or group of school committees to purchase goods and services on a cooperative basis.
Education

S-2424 HABITUAL TRUANTS AND OFFENDERS (McCaffrey) This act provides that if minors accumulate 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days they are ineligible for driving privileges, and would also provide for enforcement, notification, compliance, reinstatement and jurisdiction. Education

S-2497 SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM (Roberts & Others) This act would mandate the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to set minimum standards for the nutritional value of foods sold in schools. Education

S-2498 SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS (Issa) This act would require that the school safety plans include policies and procedures for: (1) providing notice of threats of violence or harm to the subject of the threat; (2) disclosing certain information regarding a student's conduct; and (3) determining whether a given threat or conduct may be grounds for the discipline of a student. Education

ELECTIONS

H-7654 LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES (Palumbo) This act would allow an officer or employee of the United States, of this state, or of any city/town to be appointed or to serve as a member of a local canvassing authority. Judiciary

H-7852 POOL OF ELECTION OFFICIALS (Lima) This act would enable the state board to establish a pool of election officials, and permit persons who shall have attained the age of 16 years of age by election day to serve as election supervisors.
Judiciary

H-7891 VOTING (Lima & Others) This act would amend the provisions of the election laws by defining what constitutes a vote. Judiciary

H-8033 VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS (Lima & Shavers) This act would expand the pool of eligible voters qualified to serve as poll workers, as well as provide for the earlier appointment of poll workers thus enabling election officials to better identify those precincts where poll worker shortages exist and, subsequently, seek and recruit additional persons to fill the vacancies. Corporations

H-8047 ELECTIONS RECOUNTS (Lima) This act would amend the election laws as they relate to recounts. Judiciary

S-2477 NOMINATION PAPERS (McCaffrey) This act would provide that nomination papers would not be necessary for any candidate for any election in which there are no other declared candidates for that particular office. Judiciary

ENVIRONMENT

H-7820 HAZARDOUS WASTE (Schadone) This act would require persons and companies causing bulk chemicals to be transported to this state to have a minimum of 2 years' experience in transporting bulk chemicals, a certificate showing proof of said experience, and give notice to the local fire department where the chemical is to be delivered. Corporations

H-7846 WATER QUALITY (Reilly) This act would make the water quality protection charge assessed on supplies of water nontaxable. Finance

H-8026 DAM MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS (Gorham) This act would authorize cities and towns of the state to adopt ordinances creating management districts for dams, the boundaries of which may include all or part of a city/town as specified by the ordinance. Corporations

FINANCE AND TAXATION

H-7605 PAYMENT IN LIEU: STATE PARKS (Anguilla & Others) This act would provide for an appropriation to cities and towns with state parks which are more than 10 acres located therein to reimburse them for the cost of services provided. Finance

H-7609 LOCAL MEALS AND BEVERAGE TAX (McHugh & Others) This act would expand the application of the 1% meals tax to include convenience stores, and would remove the application of the tax to the rental of catering items which are not meals or beverages. Finance

H-7611 PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD (Rose & Others) This act would provide for a change of date for submission of the annual report by the Public Finance Management Board from September 30th to March 31st, utilizing information from the previous fiscal year. Finance

H-7644 REAL ESTATE EVALUATION ASSESSMENTS (Schadone & Others) This act would change the current schedule for the required reevaluation of municipal real estate so that reevaluations would be required every 8 years, not the current 9

years, and updated 4 years from the last revaluation, not the current 3 years. Corporations

H-7682 VETERANS (Reilly) This act would extend veterans' benefits to all veterans with an honorable discharge. Finance

H-7706 LOW INCOME HOUSING (Reilly) This act would reduce the taxation applicable to qualifying low income housing, and make such reduction applicable to residential properties issued occupancy permits, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Corporations

H-7763 STATISTICAL UPDATES (Callahan & Others) This act would remove the percentage references contained in Subsection 44-5-11.6(d), which defines the method by which the costs incurred for statistical updates for tax assessments are dispersed. Corporations

H-7772 POWER TO BORROW MONEY (Williamson) This act would permit municipalities to borrow money from recognized financial institutions in order to acquire certain types of properties. Corporations

H-7830 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Moura & Others) This act would gradually increase the percent of the state appropriations in lieu of taxes, starting with 35% on July 1, 2004, and finally reaching 50% as of July 1, 2007. Finance

H-7837 SCHOOL AID (Reilly) This act would mandate a yearly increase of at least 5% in state education funding to each municipality. Finance

H-7842 STATE AID TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (Reilly) This act would require the state to annually pay for the tuition and related costs for students attending a state elementary or secondary vocational education school. The payments would be made directly to the respective schools. Finance

H-7845 SCHOOL HOUSING AID (Reilly) This act would increase the amount of the state's reimbursement to public school districts for school housing aid by 10%. Finance

H-7964 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (Jacquard) This act would require that additional information relative to employment options and benefits be included in a city's/town's adoption of a project plan. Corporations

H-8016 VETERANS' EXEMPTION (Menard & Others) This act would grant veteran property exemptions to veterans who served in enumerated areas, task forces, operations or who received certain medals. Corporations

S-2155 STATE AID: LIBRARIES (Algieri) This act would require the state to increase matching funds to public libraries based on public library's private endowment. Finance

S-2156 LOCAL MEALS AND BEVERAGE TAX (Raptakis & Others) This act would allow cities/towns to opt out of the additional 1% sales tax on meals and/or beverages served to purchasers within their municipality. Finance

S-2325 SCHOOL HOUSING PROJECT COSTS (Fogarty & Others) This act would provide that for school housing projects approved after June 30, 2003, interest payments may be included for communities or regional school districts with a stand-alone investment grade rating of at least A as established by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or by Standard & Poor's. Finance

S-2448 DELINQUENT TAXES: SUSPENDED REGISTRATIONS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would provide for the administrator of the Division of Motor Vehicles to suspend or revoke an individual's motor vehicle registration for failure to pay excise tax to a municipality. Finance

S-2456 PAYMENT IN LIEU: CIVIC CENTERS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would add any municipally owned civic center to the list of properties eligible for state aid because of a loss of tax revenue. Finance

S-2457 PENSION FUND REFINANCING BONDS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would allow municipalities to issue pension fund refinancing bonds to fund unfunded pension liability. Finance

S-2459 PAYMENT IN LIEU: 27% TO 30% (Ruggerio & Others) This act would increase the annual appropriation for payment to cities and towns in which certain private nonprofit or state owned property is located from 27% to 30%. Finance

S-2460 PAYMENT IN LIEU: CIVIC CENTERS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would mandate that any amount appropriated by the General Assembly for a municipally owned civic center be utilized only for that center's operations and capital improvement. Finance

LABOR RELATIONS

H-7668 FIREFIGHTERS' ARBITRATION (Landroche & Montanaro) This act would add civilian employees to the definition of firefighter for the purposes of this chapter. Labor

H-7671 LABOR CONTROVERSIES (Handy & Others) This act would limit the grounds upon which a labor arbitration award can be vacated. Labor

H-7674 SCHOOL TEACHER DISPUTES (Gallison & Others) This act would require the bargaining agents for teachers and non-teacher school district employees and a school committee to submit their last best offer as to salary to a mediator. Labor

H-7859 MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' ARBITRATION (Laroche) This act would require municipalities and employers to settle disputes by arbitration and the arbitrator's decision would be final. Labor

H-7860 MUNICIPAL POLICE ARBITRATION (Laroche & Others) This act would provide for a continuance of contractual benefits to municipal police personnel in the event that collective bargaining between the municipality and the collective bargaining agent is not resolved within 30 days, and a new contract is not entered into by the parties during the 30-day period. Labor

H-7861 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS (Montanaro & Others) This act would mandate that if there is a conflict between a collective bargaining agreement involving a public sector employer and a public sector employee organization and the terms of a municipal charter or ordinance, the conflict be resolved in favor of the collective bargaining agreement. Labor

H-7862 UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES (Laroche & Others) This act would broaden the jurisdiction of the Labor Relations Board to consider and address unfair labor practices that have also been filed as grievances under a collective bargaining agreement. Labor

H-7873 LABOR DISPUTES (Lally) This act would require parties meet and negotiate as a condition for the issuance of a temporary or permanent injunction in any public sector labor dispute, if so ordered by the court. Labor

H-7908 PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT (Moura) This act would permit the discretionary use of project labor agreements by public entities on public works projects in the state. Labor

H-7978 ARBITRATION OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES (Crowley) This act would provide the procedure for arbitration of unresolved issues involved in appropriations for schools to meet expenditures in the case of a negative vote by the appropriating authority. Judiciary

S-2328 CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Celona) This act would mandate that retainers relating to contracts for public works, sewer, or water main construction not exceed 5% of the contract price unless performance and payment bonds are required, and would further eliminate any agreements by the parties to the contrary. Labor

S-2376 HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PROVIDER (Breene) This act would prohibit a collective bargaining agreement covering state employees, public school teachers, or employees of any city/town from limiting health care benefits from a specific provider. Labor

S-2391 ARBITRATION: UNRESOLVED ISSUES (Gallo & Others) This act would provide the procedure for arbitration of unresolved issues involved in appropriations for schools to meet expenditures in the case of a negative vote by the appropriating authority. Finance

S-2405 PUBLIC WORKS ARBITRATION (Connors) This act would mandate that upon a judgment of an arbitration award, that judgment would include 12% interest which would accrue from the date of the award. Judiciary

S-2443 PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would allow private rights of action by an employee or any organization representing such employee against a contractor for violations of payment of wages provisions of a contract. Labor

S-2444 PUBLIC WORKS ARBITRATION (Ruggerio & Others) This act deals with certain construction disputes involving construction of highways or bridges valued at \$100,000, exempting arbitration without the consent of the parties. Judiciary

S-2446 SCHOOLTEACHERS' ARBITRATION (Ruggerio & Others) This act would provide for the payment of certain costs pertaining to compulsory mediation. Finance

LIQUOR CONTROL AND LICENSES

H-7766 RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES (Lewiss & Others) This act would require that holders of Classes B, C, D, E, J, and N licenses comply with alcohol server training regulations. Corporations

H-7804 CLASS D LIQUOR LICENSES (Kilmartin) This act would permit municipalities to charge less for a Class D license for a veterans' hall with a capacity of not more than 100 persons. Corporations

H-7875 SUNDAY BUSINESS (Winfield) This act would repeal the provisions providing for pharmacies to be opened on December 25th or Thanksgiving day. Corporations

H-8020 SUNDAY SALES (SanBento & Others) This act would allow liquor stores to open on Sundays, but would limit the hours of operation. Corporations

S-2157 LIQUOR LICENSES (Raptakis & Others) This act would amend the annual fees for holders of certain retail licenses. Finance

S-2332 PACKAGE STORES (Badeau & Others) This act would allow towns and cities to permit package stores to sell alcoholic beverages on Sundays. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

PLANNING AND ZONING

H-7641 SUBDIVISION OF LAND (Montanaro & Kilmartin) This act would increase the vested period for an approved master plan regarding major subdivisions from 1 year to 5 years, and would increase to 3 years the extension period. Corporations

H-7838 REMEDIATION OF BROWNFIELDS (Reilly) This act would create a tax credit for Brownfield Remediation. Finance

H-7878 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (McNamara & Others) This act would require that the Economic Development Corporation and its subsidiary corporation develop a Perimeter Redevelopment Master Plan which would be subject to municipality approval pursuant to the city's/town's comprehensive plan, and would further mandate that the city/town where a project is located develop an Airport Redevelopment Land Use Commission to review this master plan. Corporations

H-7881 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Long & Others) This act would require that the calculation of the number of low and moderate income housing units include the 5-year average number of Section 8 family units. Corporations

H-7924 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Mumford & Others) This act would amend the definition of what would constitute low/moderate income housing under this chapter by reducing certain cities' or towns' eligible land for housing units by excluding watershed land. Corporations

H-7940 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Mumford & Others) This act would redefine the term low and moderate income housing to include any housing subsidized by a city or town by an ordinance which freezes real estate taxes for persons 65 years and older. Corporations

S-2309 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Blais & Breene) This act would create a moratorium up to 1 year on low and moderate income housing applications by private, for-profit applicants. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE

H-7590 SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE (Menard & Others) This act would include any employee or retiree under contract with any fire department or fire district in the definition of eligible employee. Corporations

H-7602 BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS (Brien & Others) This act would provide benefits to firefighters for various forms of cancer and respiratory diseases. Corporations

H-7651 WEAPONS (Brien & Others) This act would authorize those Connecticut and Massachusetts police officials authorized to carry concealed firearms while off duty to carry such firearms in Rhode Island. Judiciary

H-7652 WEAPONS (Amaral & Others) This act would provide that a person possessing a license or permit for a concealed pistol or revolver, issued by another state which grants Rhode Island residents reciprocity with respect to concealed pistol permits, would be considered to have a valid concealed pistol permit in Rhode Island. Judiciary

H-7655 CRIMINAL OFFENSES (Lally & Others) This act would define video voyeurism, and impose fines and/or penalties for a person found guilty of this offense. Judiciary

H-7742 PUBLIC RECORDS (Anderson & Others) This act would provide that family members of a deceased, whose death was a result of a motor vehicle accident, may access police records related to the accident. Judiciary

H-7751 INDECENT SOLICITATION OF A CHILD (Lewiss & Others) This act would change the definition of child pornography, and make illegal the indecent solicitation of a child. Judiciary

H-7773 CRIMINAL RECORDS (Williamson) This act would allow a person to file a motion for the expungement of records relating to a felony conviction after 5 years from the completion of sentence under certain criteria and circumstances. Judiciary

H-7778 EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES (Williamson) This act would establish protocols for eyewitness identification procedures. Judiciary

H-7789 ANIMAL ABUSE (Lewiss & Others) This act would define and provide penalties for various acts of animal abuse, cruelty and neglect, and would create a cause of action for the intentional or negligent death of a pet. H.E.W.

H-7790 DOGS (Lewiss & Others) This act would provide guidelines and penalties for the violation thereof, for any person that keeps a dog outside tethered, penned, caged, fenced or otherwise confined without adequate shelter from the elements. H.E.W.

H-7827 COURT COSTS AND FEES (Schadone & Others) This act would make changes to court fees and jurors fees, including fees of city and town police departments. Finance

H-7904 VACCINATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS (Landroche & Others) This act would authorize the Department of Health to provide a vaccination program for first responders who may be exposed to infectious diseases resulting from bioterrorism and disasters. H.E.W.

H-7932 SUBCONTRACTING OF FIRE, POLICE, AND RESCUE SERVICES (Moura) This act would require that private agreements between municipalities and private employers, to provide personnel to perform fire, police or rescue services, contain a stipulation requiring prescribed rates of wages as determined by the Director of the Department of Labor. Corporations

H-7982 AGGRESSIVE DRIVING (Story & Long) This act would add laned roadway violations to the list of traffic offenses to be considered under the state's aggressive driving law. Judiciary

H-8048 CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK (Ginaitt & Others) This act would provide that an employer of a child care facility be informed in writing by the state police or local police department of any disqualifying information of an applicant seeking employment. Judiciary

S-2148 CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK (Blais) This act would require the Bureau of Criminal Identification to pay for all costs of criminal background checks required for day care workers. Judiciary

S-2158 THERMAL IMAGING DEVICES (Blais & Breene) This act would establish a fire safety equipment acquisition fund for the acquisition of thermal imaging devices. Finance

S-2168 TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (Tassoni & Others) This act would provide that any vehicle facing a red traffic arrow must stop and remain standing until the arrow turns green. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-2320 RHODE ISLAND JUSTICE COMMISSION (Tassoni & Others) This act would make changes in the composition of the Rhode Island Justice Commission, the Criminal Justice Policy Board, and the Criminal Justice Oversight Committee. Judiciary

S-2339 VICIOUS DOGS (Sosnowski) This act would make changes to the regulation of vicious dogs. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-2344 DOGS (Perry & Others) This act would provide guidelines and penalties for any person that keeps a dog outside tethered, penned, caged, fenced or otherwise confined without adequate shelter from the elements. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-2359 FIREARMS SAFETY DEVICES (Perry & Others) This act would set strict standards for the use of gun safes and firearms safety devices. Judiciary

S-2370 DEATH BENEFITS: POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Perry & Others) This act would provide that a surviving domestic partner of a deceased police officer, correctional officer or firefighter would be included in the definition of the word “family” for purposes of this section, and, thus, would be entitled to a one-time death benefit. It would further define a domestic partner for purposes of this act. Finance

S-2399 COURTS – COSTS AND FEES (McCaffrey) This act would eliminate the maximum limit on the amount per page which court stenographers are allowed to charge for typing court transcripts. It would increase the fees paid to jurors from \$15 per day to \$40 per day. In addition, it would increase from \$3.50 to \$10 the costs assessed against a criminal defendant that is remitted to the city/town where the crime was committed. Judiciary

S-2455 SUBCONTRACTING OF FIRE, POLICE AND RESCUE SERVICES (Ruggerio & Others) This act would require that private agreements between municipalities and private employers, to provide personnel to perform fire, police or rescue services, contain a stipulation requiring prescribed rates of wages as determined by the Director of the Department of Labor. Labor

S-2475 DOMESTIC ABUSE (Goodwin & Others) This act would add the surrender of all firearms in a person’s possession, care, custody, or control to the local police department to the list of protective orders pursuant to a complaint filed due to domestic abuse. Judiciary

S-2480 FIRE HYDRANTS (Goodwin) This act would change the penalty for interfering with or bypassing certain utility meters and fire hydrants from a misdemeanor to a felony. Judiciary

RETIREMENT

H-7642 DISABILITY BENEFITS (Malik & Schadone) This act would clarify the time period that municipal employees, police and firefighters have in which to apply for disability benefits. Corporations

H-7643 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT: FOR POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Corvese) This act would amend the provisions for determination by a city/town of a police officer’s or firefighter’s disability for purposes of retirement. Corporations

H-7645 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT: POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS
(Montanaro & Kilmartin) This act would include all regular and permanent rescue service personnel and employees of any city/town fire district within the framework of the optional retirement system that is presently limited to police officers and firefighters. Corporations

H-7697 POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Coderre & Others) This act would permit retirees in the state retirement system to accept employment with a municipality at either a nonprofit senior center and/or as a custodian or janitor for the municipality, without any reduction in pension benefits. Finance

H-7816 MEDICAL EXPENSES UPON RETIREMENT (Williams & Others) This act would require cities and towns to continue medical coverage after a disability pension is granted. Corporations

H-7879 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT: POLICE & FIREFIGHTERS (Laroche)
This act would mandate that police officers or firefighters who sustain a disabling illness determined to be job related be entitled to an accidental disability retirement allowance. Corporations

H-7916 POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Corvese) This act would exempt retired state employees, who are reemployed for purposes of athletic coaching of students, from the \$12,000 cap on gross annual income, without forfeiture or reduction of any retirement benefit. Finance

H-7923 POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Corvese) This act would provide that any compensation received by a retired member for academic advising and/or coaching shall not be included in the calculation of "part-time" gross pay with respect to post retirement employment. Finance

H-7935 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Corvese) This act would eliminate the requirement that substitute teacher positions may not be offered to retirees unless a good faith effort is made by the employer to fill the position with a nonretiree. H.E.W.

H-7948 POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Carter & Others) This act would raise the amount of part-time gross pay retired professors and teachers may earn from employment by a state college or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from \$12,000 to \$18,000. Finance

S-2458 MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (Ruggerio & Others) This act would mandate that a municipality contribute the minimum amount actuarially required into the employee retirement system. Finance

S-2461 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT: POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would amend the formula for determining a police officer's or firefighter's final compensation for retirement purposes. Finance

S-2485 DISABILITY BENEFITS (Tassoni & Others) This act would increase from 100% to 150% the amount of wages a person receiving disability retirement benefits earns in the calculation of the amount of the retirement benefits. Finance

TOWN AND CITY CLERKS

H-7734 PROBATE PRACTICE (Lewiss & Others) This act would amend the composition of the legislative commission to review and modernize probate laws. It would also make amendments in the procedures for obtaining limited guardianships, for giving notice, for representing the interests of unborn and/or unascertained persons, and would also amend the procedures involved in prosecuting a probate appeal. Judiciary

H-7765 MARRIAGE LICENSES (Lewiss & Others) This act would amend those provisions of the general laws pertaining to issuance of marriage licenses to support the electronic transfer of information. Corporations

H-7853 VALIDATING CONVEYANCES (Kennedy & Others) This act would validate conveyances which contain certain defects or omissions. Judiciary

H-7959 HISTORICAL RECORDS TRUST (Crowley) This act would more specifically direct the expenditure of funds by the State Archives that are collected through the \$2 additional recording tax. Finance

H-7995 PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO MARRY (Handy & Others) This act would broaden the definition of persons eligible to marry to include persons of the same gender. This act would also provide that members of the clergy would not be required to officiate at any particular marriage. Judiciary

MISCELLANEOUS

H-7621 MUNICIPAL SERVICES TO CONDOMINIUMS (Menard & Others) This act would require municipalities to provide those services that are provided to single-family residences to condominiums, or in the alternative to reimburse condominiums the cost of the services. Finance

H-7660 DOGS AND CATS (Palumbo & Others) This act would establish a fund for the spaying and neutering of cats and dogs, and would provide funds from contributions from a check-off on the Rhode Island personal income tax form. H.E.W.

H-7716 ANIMALS (Shanley & Others) This act would change the definition of the term shelter as used in the law related to mistreatment of animals. H.E.W.

H-7732 LIBRARY SERVICES (Dennigan & Others) A joint resolution creating a special legislative commission to study the current strengths and weaknesses of library services in the State of Rhode Island. H.E.W.

H-7776 PUBLIC RECORDS: GIS (Williamson) This act would allow a reasonable charge be made for the search and retrieval of documents from a geographic information system which reflects the actual cost of gathering and maintaining the information of this system. Judiciary

H-7781 GAMBLING ACTIVITIES OR FACILITIES (Williamson) This act would prohibit payments to government bodies in exchange for legislation to not allow or to prohibit the introduction or expansion of gambling activities or gambling facilities. Corporations

H-7865 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTORS (Moura) This act would require any contractor who is awarded a public works contract after July 1, 2004, to ascertain the prevailing wage rate and make the necessary adjustments. Labor

H-7892 CODE OF ETHICS (Lima & Others) This act would add a requirement to financial disclosure statements for state elected and appointed officials. Judiciary

H-7909 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS (Moura) This act would establish bidding requirements for contractors bidding on public works contracts. Labor

H-7911 PUBLIC WORKS (Moura) This act would expand the definition of public works. Labor

H-7922 CASINO GAMBLING (Landroche) This act would prohibit casino gambling in certain locations. Finance

H-7965 MUNICIPAL PURCHASING (Crowley) This act would provide for the exclusion of multi-cities or towns telecommunications aggregation programs. The provisions of this chapter would not apply to entities organized for the purpose of negotiating the purchase of telecommunications and internet services, or communication-related services. Corporations

H-7985 PUBLIC INTEGRITY (Story & Others) This act would create a Commission on Public Integrity to investigate whether "public bodies and/or persons" have conflicts of interests. Judiciary

S-2165 PUBLIC RECORDS (Raptakis & Others) This act would make any record not specifically exempted, in Section 38-2-2 of the General Laws, a public record. Government Oversight

S-2173 CODE OF ETHICS (Montalbano & Others) This act would prohibit elected and appointed officials from accepting gifts of any value from interested persons. Government Oversight

S-2324 COMMUNITY TREATMENT AND OUT-OF-HOME CARE FOR CHILDREN (Revens) This act would amend various sections providing for community treatment and out-of-home care for children in the care or custody of the Department of Children, Youth and Families or at risk of being in state care. Judiciary

S-2445 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would establish bidding requirements for contractors bidding on public works contracts. Labor

S-2447 SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS (Ruggerio & Others) This act establishes safety awareness programs. Labor

S-2471 PUBLIC INTEGRITY (Algiere & Others) This act would create a Commission on Public Integrity to investigate whether “public bodies and/or persons” have conflicts of interests. Judiciary